

Change Record Detail With Description Alaska Court System

Scenario: FY2010 Supplemental (7955)
Component: Administration and Support (769)
RDU: Alaska Court System (244)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	PFT	Positions PPT	NP
FY2010 Supplemental Settlement, prepaid phone card costs												
	Suppl	35.5	0.0	0.0	35.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		35.5										
The Alaska Court System (ACS) has received a \$35.5 settlement on a claim for prepaid phone card long distance charges, which was deposited into the general fund. The ACS requests appropriation of these funds to cover phone costs.												
In past years, the court system used prepaid phone cards extensively to save on toll costs for long-distance phone calls. These cards resulted in great savings, particularly for instate calls. With a Sprint prepaid phone card, the court system was paying less than three cents per minute for instate calls. For the same calls, local carriers were charging 11.5 cents to 18 cents per minute.												
Effective October 2008, Sprint sold its interest in prepaid calling cards to STI Prepaid. While the quality of service was supposed to remain unchanged after the sale, STI's equipment proved inadequate for handling instate calls; connections were not of sufficient quality or reliability to conduct court business. STI also announced its intention to substantially raise instate rates by October 2009.												
Because of the continuing technical problems with the service, the court system determined that it was in its best interest to discontinue the use of STI prepaid phone cards late in FY2009. The court system considered other prepaid calling card vendors, but none could provide a reliable service at less cost than the amounts charged by local carriers. Accordingly, the court system filed a complaint with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, seeking compensation from STI for unused minutes and for its increased costs for using alternative carriers.												
The court system has settled its claims with STI, and is requesting that the payment deposited into the general fund in FY2010 be appropriated for use by the court system to pay the increased costs for long-distance telephone calls during that fiscal year. In its FY2011 budget request, the court system is also seeking additional funding of \$42,000 to pay for increased telephone costs.												
Component Totals		35.5	0.0	0.0	35.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0